

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 IO-06 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 NEA-07 EB-03 DHA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

/061 W

-----150743Z 034128 /14

R 141125Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4705

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USUN NEW YORK 514

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0434

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, US, SO, ET, SU, FT, KE, LY, UR

SUBJ: THE HORN OF AFRICA: PERSPECTIVE FROM MOGADISCIO

REF: USUN 0726

1. EMBASSY CONCURS IN REFTEL'S OVERALL ANALYSIS OF CURRENT POLITICAL CONFIGURATION IN HORN WITHOUT, HOWEVER, ENDORSING ALL OF ITS CONCLUSIONS.

2. ON GSDR'S READINESS MAKE CONCERTED EFFORT "TO RECLAIM SOMALIA IRRIDENTA", FOR EXAMPLE, CONSENSUS OF DIPLOMATIC OPINION HERE IS THAT GSDR IS NOT PREPARED TAKE HIGH RISKS AT THIS TIME. IT STANDS TO REASON THAT GSDR'S MENTORS, THE SOVIETS, WOULD NOT ENCOURAGE GSDR TO MOVE INTO TFAI OR THE OGADEN AT TIME WHEN SOVIETS ARE TRYING
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TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR INFLUENCE AT ADDIS ABABA. UNILATERAL ACTION ON GSDR'S PART COULD FORCE SOVIETS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA, TO DETRIMENT OF THEIR INVESTMENT AND/OR PLANS IN THE OTHER. WE BELIEVE EPMG IS MUCH MORE LIKELY TO INITIATE MILITARY OR OTHER ACTION OVER TFAI, THAN GSDR. ETHIOPIA HAS MORE TO LOSE IN TFAI (PORT, RAILROAD) AND SEEMS TO BE NEARER TO LOSING IT, OR AT LEAST LOSING CONTROL OVER SITUATION, IF

WE READ SITUATION CORRECTLY. GSDR, ON CONTRARY, APPARENTLY CALCULATES THAT TIME IS ON ITS SIDE IN TFAI, AND THAT IT CAN MANIPULATE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION OF TERRITORY TO ITS ADVANTAGE WHEN AND HOW IT CHOOSES. FRENCH, AT ANY RATE, BELIEVE GSDR IS NO IMMEDIATE THREAT TO TFAI.

3. FURTHER AFIELD FROM OUR IMMEDIATE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY, WE ALSO WONDER WHETHER SUDAN'S POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO STABILITY IN HORN WILL NOT BE VITIATED BY ITS AVOWED SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE. AT LEAST, USG SHOULD NOT ENCOURAGE GOS IN ITS ADVOCACY OF ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE, ITSELF A CAUSE OF REGIONAL INSTABILITY, OR TO BELIEVE THAT US HAS CHANGED ITS TRADITIONAL POSITION IN SUPPORT TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF STATES, REGARDLESS OF ITS CURRENT RELATIONS WITH EPMG.

4. EMBASSY ENTIRELY AGREES WITH REFTTEL'S THRUST THAT OPPORTUNITIES COULD PRESENT THEMSELVES TO US, IN PRESENT FLUID SITUATION IN HORN, EVEN IN SUCH APPARENTLY FAR-GONE PLACES AS SOMALIA.

JACOBS

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